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Jobcentre refuses to provide details of escaped criminal to police

BUREAUCRACY GONE INSANE!

EXCLUSIVE

By Charles Thomson

southend@yellowad.co.uk

AN ESCAPED convict who threatened to murder his boss remained at large after Jobcentre staff said his address was 'personal information'.

Police hunting Steven Evans – on the run from a life sentence – accused Southend Jobcentre of hampering their investigation.

The Taxpayers' Alliance described the incident as 'a farce that would be comical if it hadn't been so potentially dangerous'.

Evans, 56, secured a job using a false name at Southend company Clarkwood Communications (CWC) through Government-funded recruitment agency Ingeus, where he was sent by Jobcentre.

He had absconded from prison 10 years into a life sentence, handed down in 2003 for an attack on a fellow learner at a skills college in Southend.

He had a disagreement with his victim during a class, then 'laid in wait' in a nearby car park and repeatedly struck the man about the head with a metal bar.

After serving 10 years he was placed in HMP Ford, an open prison in Sussex, where he was allowed out on day release in March 2013. But he never returned.

He began living under the name Steven Canfield, one of his known aliases. He used the name to sign up for Jobcentre. His true identity was uncovered by CWC when staff Googled him after he threatened to kill his boss over a pay dispute.

A company spokesman said bosses found their new employee on a Crimestoppers 'most wanted' list.

The spokesman said he found it 'staggering' that a Government agency could sign up a violent fugitive and send him to work for a local company.

Investigating officer DS Mike Calvert, Southend CID, said Evans had emailed his boss, who was on holiday at the time, threatening to kill him in front of his family when he touched down in London.

DS Calvert attempted to get Evans's address



DS Mike Calvert said Jobcentre staff had hampered the search for the violent fugitive from Southend Jobcentre, which refused to hand it over and referred him to another body called the National Disclosure Unit.

He said: "I rang that body and it was closed. I called Jobcentre back and said I was hunting a dangerous criminal who had threatened to kill someone and I needed the address urgently, but they just kept saying 'Data Protection'."

The failure to hand over the address meant police were unable to find Evans before the man he had threatened returned to the UK. He and his family had to be met and chaperoned by armed police when they landed at Gatwick Airport.

DS Calvert said: "Jobcentre referred a dangerous criminal to a company and should have released details immediately. They refused to give us those details, which hampered our ability to track him down as soon as possible."

After making local enquiries, officers arrested Evans in Bridgwater Drive, Westcliff, on Tuesday, September 9. He appeared at Chelmsford Magistrates Court on Saturday, September 13, where he admitted making the



Steven Evans absconded from prison and then signed up to Southend Jobcentre

threats and absconding from prison.

He was given a four month sentence, to be served alongside his existing life sentence. He is currently being held at Chelmsford Prison.

John O'Connell, director of the Taxpayers' Alliance, said: "The sheer incompetence apparent throughout this entire episode is remarkable. It's the 21st century, so there's no excuse for there not to be some way of checking whether new jobseekers are who they say they are. At the end of this sorry episode, taxpayers have ended up picking up the bill for a farce that would be comical if it wasn't so potentially dangerous."

The Department for Work and Pensions defended Jobcentre staff. A spokesman said: "Jobcentre staff followed the correct procedure in registering this individual after he produced forms of identification, including a birth certificate."

"As you'd expect, we do not just give out people's personal information over the phone. Jobcentre referred the police to the National Disclosure Unit, which would have been able to provide all the information they needed."

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Alternatively text YACAMP (space) followed by A, B or C, and your name, full address and email to 63333. Calls cost 51p from a BT landline.

Calls from other networks may vary and from mobiles will cost considerably more. Texts cost 50p plus your standard network rates.

If you do not wish to receive details on any other products or services, text EXIT at the end of your message. Lines close on Thursday, October 9. Entries received after the closing date will not be counted but may still be charged.

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Leigh: Sun-Fri (8am-11pm) and Sat (8am-6pm), **Derix Healthcare Pharmacy**, (opposite side of Leigh Primary Care Centre), 1065 London Rd.

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Images of children found on deputy head's computer

By Paul Giles and Charles Thomson

southend@yellowad.co.uk

INDECENT images of pupils have been found on a computer at the home of a deputy headteacher who was recently found dead.

Essex Police launched an investigation into allegations that deputy head, of Thorpe Hall School, in Southend, Martin Goldberg, had bought material online which may have included images of naked boys.

Officers visited Goldberg, at his home in Shoeburyness, on Tuesday, September 9, as part of the inquiry.

He was not arrested due to a lack of evidence, but police were called back to the property the next day where he was found dead.

An inquest is due to be held later this year. The provisional cause of death is by hanging.

The force has continued its investigation into the original allegations that surfaced from police in Toronto in November, 2013.

Officers have examined computer equipment and other media devices found at the 46-year-old's home.

Images recovered from the devices appear to have come from a camera that was hidden in a bag and used to film male students in

the schools changing rooms, in the changing rooms of Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre and two other unidentified locations.

In total 75 images in the school's changing rooms classified as indecent have been recovered.

A total of 465 indecent images from the swimming pool and 38 from the other locations have been found.

Specialist detectives have identified four of the children and have spoken to their parents to tell them of Goldberg's actions.

Officers believe the images date as far back as 2000 when the boys were aged between nine and 12.

There is no evidence to point towards any inappropriate physical contact with any of the children.

Goldberg's inquest opened on Monday, September 15, and police released information about the investigation 15 days later.

Essex police has set up a special number for people to call if they have any concerns or believe they have information on the investigation.

People with information should call 0800 056 0944 or +44 207 158 0010.

Headteacher Andrew Hampton said he was unaware his deputy was leading a 'double life'.

In a statement, he said: "The

school governors and staff are all very shocked by the news about Mr Goldberg. He was a well-regarded teacher who had an exemplary record during his 23 years at the school and there were no indications whatsoever that Mr Goldberg was leading a double life.

"Everyone at Thorpe Hall School feels surprised, angry and betrayed. Our immediate focus is on supporting our pupils, parents and staff at this difficult time. An incident such as this is very alarming and no one could have foreseen it.

"Our safeguarding policies were inspected in March by the Independent Schools Inspectorate and judged to be fully compliant within the ISI's rigorous framework. There were no recommendations for areas to improve. Despite this, we are re-enforcing our safeguarding procedures to ensure our provision goes beyond the highest standards expected of all UK schools and are as watertight as it is possible to have them.

"We will also be providing additional staff training in safeguarding and will continue our close working relationship with the local authority. Our aim now is to move forward, with the safeguarding of our pupils and the quality of their education remaining our very highest priority."



DEAD: Martin Goldberg

Investigation gone 'badly wrong'

POLICE commissioner Nick Alston said he believed Essex Police's investigation into Martin Goldberg had gone 'badly wrong'.

He ordered an investigation into why it took officers so long to investigate the teacher, despite receiving intelligence that he had bought indecent images of children.

Mr Alston said: "I understand the original information from police in Toronto suggesting that Goldberg had purchased videos of naked boys several years ago was received by Essex Police in late November 2013. The Police Online Investigation Team first visited Goldberg on September 9, 2014.

"It is important that we understand why it took nine months for the force to act on this information. There may be valid reasons but we deserve an explanation.

"Essex Police has referred aspects of this case to the Independent Police Complaints Commission and I expect the independent watchdog to investigate thoroughly and rigorously. It would be wrong of me to pre-empt the findings of that investigation, but my initial judgement is that it is likely that something has gone badly wrong here.

"I have also asked Essex Police urgently to review any information or intelligence they possess, such as the material from police in Toronto, about potential paedophile activity in our county and the processes for risk assessment reports of such activity."

Council claims to have no knowledge of allegations

SOUTHEND Council has insisted it knew nothing about Goldberg's alleged offending – even though Essex Police allegedly knew nine months before interviewing him.

Councillor Anne Jones, lead member for children and learning, said: "I am extremely shocked and upset to hear this news.

"We have been working very closely with Essex Police and Thorpe Hall

School since this matter was drawn to our attention earlier this month.

"As a parent myself, I can understand how upsetting this must be to all those concerned.

"The council's primary focus at this time are the children and families directly involved from Thorpe Hall school, as well as working with partner agencies to ensure the necessary support is available to the wider community.

"We have been informed by the Police that some of these images were covertly taken at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre swimming pool changing rooms, and are therefore working with Legacy Leisure who operate the facility on our behalf.

"Legacy Leisure has fully cooperated with the Police investigation. They have rigorous safeguarding arrangements in place which they continue to

monitor and review to ensure that they are of the highest standard. We will continue to work closely with Essex Police, Essex County Council and others to provide that support and ensure that all appropriate action is taken.

"Members of the community are encouraged to access the Essex Police helpline or contact the Council's Children's Services should they have any concerns."

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Ambulance staff win top awards



WINNER: Jenny Coventry

ESSEX ambulance staff have won top accolades at the national awards for patient care.

The control room staff at the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) collected awards from the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) in Bristol on Thursday. Jenny Coventry from Chelmsford was named as dispatcher of the year, while Becca Howarth from Norwich as clinician of the year.

Jenny is tasked with making sure patients receive the right help when they need it by dispatching emergency resources, while Becca gives clinical advice to patients when they may not need an ambulance.

Gary Morgan, head of Emergency Operation Centre (EOC), who attended the ceremony, said: "It was great to see Becca and Jenny receiving their awards and being recognised for their excellent work. They thoroughly deserve it and with five of our EOC staff from across the region making the final stage, this reflects the great work carried out across our control rooms."

LASTING TRIBUTE: Southend Cenotaph Photo by Mark Cleveland



War memorials get deep clean

EXPERTS are to give a £30,000 deep clean to two of Southend's war memorials to keep them in mint condition for future generations.

The work to preserve and repair Southend Cenotaph and the war memorial at Campfield Road, Shoebury, are due to be finished in time for the Remembrance Day parades in November.

The Grade II listed Cenotaph, at the Cliffs, Southend, will be shrouded in scaffolding while cleaning and stone conservation work is carried out.

The project team consulted with planning officers and the War Memorials Trust on how best to ensure the Cenotaph is preserved, and recommendations included replacing damaged steps, repointing paving and repairing damaged paintwork.

The monument was built in 1920 to com-

memorate those killed in the First World War and was designed by architect Sir Edwin Lutyens, who is also responsible for the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London.

The memorial on the green area next to the ambulance station at Campfield Road, Shoeburyness, will be restored to its original glory. Paint will be cleaned off and the structure treated with a sealant.

Councillor for enterprise, tourism and economic development, Graham Longley, said it was fitting the work is taking place as the borough commemorates the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War.

Cllr Longley said: "It is essential to maintain the memorials in the best possible condition, to help us constantly realise and remember how many people in our borough made the ultimate sacrifice."

speedread

● ONE of the UK's greatest concert pianists will be coming to Southend on Friday, October 10.

John Lill, will be opening the Southend Concert Series with a recital at the Plaza Centre, Southchurch Road, from 8pm.

The pianist's career has seen him travel the world and perform with some of the world's greatest orchestras.

To book tickets, that range from £7 to £10, call 01702 215011.

● THE Rotary Club of Southend will be holding a musical event at Porters on Saturday, October 11, at 7.30pm.

Entertainment will be provided by Bob's Barber Shop Quartet.

Tickets cost £7 and include a glass of wine and cheese canapés.

To book tickets contact 01702 216616.

● RESIDENTS in Southend will soon be able to put small electrical items in their recycling bundles.

Unwanted electrical items can now be left in a carrier bag and left with normal recycling on the kerbside.

Emma Cheesman, recycling administration manager at Cory Environmental, said: "We want to make it as easy as possible for people to recycle, and with a kerbside collection for electrical items and additional pink recycling sacks, we're going to see reduction in the amount of waste sent to landfill."

● JAMES Duddridge, MP for Rochford and Southend East, will hold an informal advice surgery on Friday, October 10, at 10am at Ambleside Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend.

He also holds 'out and about' surgeries across Rochford and Southend East, in addition to regular surgeries in his office in Southchurch Road.

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Martina Cole

Bestselling author to speak at forum

BEST selling author Martina Cole will be speaking at The Forum in November.

She will be introducing her latest novel at the education centre on Wednesday, November 19, and promoting the importance of reading for everyone.

She will also be sharing details of her life as a writer, as an avid supporter of libraries and as a campaigner for adult literacy in her role as

ambassador for national charity, The Reading Agency's Six Book Challenge.

Martina who has been to The Forum before said she was looking forward to returning.

She said: "When I came last year I could see what a fantastic community effort it is."

"It is a wonderful space – bright, airy, and everything you need to read, study and enjoy."

"It is a real honour to be an

ambassador for the Six Book Challenge.

"I love books, and I think it's wonderful of you've enjoyed a book, to recommend it to someone else so you can pass on that enjoyment."

Tickets are £5 each for the event being held in the lecture theatre from 7.30pm, at The Forum, in Elmer Square, Southend.

To book tickets visit www.theforumsouthend.co.uk

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Hadleigh Park

Bird's-eye view of bike track

AN AUDIENCE will get a different slant on Hadleigh's mountain bike course at a pop-up cinema, part of the town's art trail.

Local videographer Dave Black has shot film of the British mountain bike team tackling the modified Olympic course from a drone.

The Shoebury-based photographer branched out to use 'remotely piloted multi-rotors to capture amazing shots of local sites.

He will let his audience at the Old Fire Station temporary cinema in on some of the tricks of trade, demonstrating the technology, filming and editing techniques as well as giving a glimpse of his portfolios of aerial videos.

"Using a drone is an exciting way to film, but it is pretty tightly regulated," Dave said. "I have to have CAA approval to perform the aerial work I do as Blackwing Aerial Services."

He flies a 1.2kg remote controlled quadcopter to film his videos. It looks a bit like an angry insect with its many propellers, but Dave said is great for low level surveys for his clients – in building maintenance, construction, architecture or farming.

"I can film from it or use a video link, which would be useful to use at the scene of an accident to see what's needed," he added.

Dave has an impressive video library ranging from local beauty spots

like Shoebury Common Beach, Hadleigh Farm, Leigh, to events like this year's Southend Half Marathon to picturesque locations in France and Spain.

Dave will be at the pop-up cinema on Wednesday, October 8, doors open at 6.30pm. The art trail starts this week and runs until Saturday, October 11, including work from more than 50 artists on display in local shops plus artist demonstrations and workshops, a chance to meet exhibitors, live music and a schools' Christmas card contest.

Pick up a trail guide available online at www.hadleigharttrail.org.uk and in shops, libraries and other public places. Part of Essex Summer of Art.



READY to fly: Dave Black with his drones

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Participants as they start the colour chase

Hundreds join colour chase

HUNDREDS of runners tried to dodge colour bandits flinging bright powder, as they raced through woodland – hoping to raise £20,000 for local hospices at the same time.

Colour chase – last weekend – was the latest and newest fund raiser for Havens Hospices.

More than 300 people paid £15 to run 5k through the grounds of Little Havens Hospice in Thundersley and avoid getting covered in coloured powder.

The entries included a large T-shirt in case the bandits caught up with runners.

The event, last Saturday, was the first of its kind to take place in Essex, after the run con-

stants celebrated with food, drink and live music.

Jane Hopkins, events fund raiser for the hospices said: “The colour chase was the first event of its kind in Essex and it was a huge success.”

Runners included the ‘Essex Fire Fairies’ a team of five from Essex Fire Service safer communities department, complete with fairy wings.

Julie Neale, aged 45 from Canvey Island, took part in the event in memory of her father Derek Watts who died in January 2014 surrounded by his family and supported by Fair Havens Hospice at Home.

Children and parents from the Chalvedon under-13s Football

Club in Basildon also ran the colour gauntlet.

*The charity’s next event is a toddler waddle, a sponsored 3k walk for children and families at Hylands Park, Chelmsford, on Sunday, October 5. Entry is £14 for a family (2 adults and 2 children), £8 for 1 adult and child then £6 for an additional adult and £3 for an additional child. For more information or to sign up visit www.havenshospices.org.uk/toddlewaddle or call Claire on 01702 220312 or email csouthgate@havenshospices.org.uk. For more information on the care services Havens Hospices provides visit www.havenshospices.org.uk or call 01702 220350.

NSPCC Childline Schools Service

“Essex Action” – as heard on Chelmsford Radio – with Volunteer Centres Essex

I spoke to Helen from the NSPCC Childline Schools service and she told me that she is looking for volunteers to join her, by talking to children in schools about Childline – to help them understand abuse in all its forms, how to protect themselves and how to get help should they need it.

This is a fantastic volunteer opportunity to work with children and make a huge difference to their lives.

You only need to commit to four hours a week or a fortnight during term time, but you do need to have your own transport.

So if you would like to join Helen and Childline Schools Service then please contact your local volunteer Centre by going to www.volunteeressex.org



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Olympic legend joins graduates on their big day

FORMER Olympic triple jump champion Jonathan Edwards CBE is returning to the county where he says he first realised his potential.

The former World, Commonwealth and European champion will deliver the keynote speech at South Essex College's graduation ceremony on October 21 at the Cliffs Pavilion.

The college invites special guests to attend the graduation ceremony for degree students and the Olympic gold medallist and triple jump world record holder is this year's speaker.

Talking about Essex, Mr Edwards, 48, said he won the English Schools title in Thurrock in 1984.

He said: "It was there I realised my athletic potential, it was a hugely significant moment in my career. I am really looking forward to being part of the ceremony, moments to celebrate achievements are special."

"It will be great to see the students and their pleasure at being awarded their degrees."

Known for his athletic achievements, Mr Edwards is an admired world class athlete.

Now a key member of the BBC's sports presenting team, he reports live from major competing events around the world.

He entered the record books during the 1995 World Championships when he broke the world record with a leap of 18.29m, and to date this record still stands.

The Sydney Olympics in 2000 saw him achieve his ultimate goal of winning a gold medal and in 2001 he was awarded a CBE.

He added: "The most important thing is to believe in yourself. Everyone is capable of achieving, you just have to work out your strengths and weaknesses and focus on getting the best out of yourself."



SPEAKER: Jonathan Edwards CBE will give the keynote speech at South Essex College's graduation ceremony

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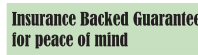
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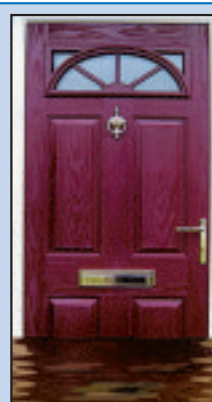


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HERITAGE: Great Waking Primary School pupils with the mosaic they have created based on the community's experiences of the First World War

Mosaic 'a legacy for future generations'

PRIMARY schoolchildren have created a stunning mosaic after studying how the First World War affected their community.

It will feature in an exhibition to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the start of the war.

Pupils from Great Waking Primary School, who received a £9,700 grant from the Heritage Lottery for the project, investigated links between the war and the community at the time of the conflict, and now.

Headteacher Hayley O'Dea said: "The children have enthusiastically researched and created art-work for the mosaic.

"This has been a tremendous opportunity for them to understand more about local history and how this area was affected by the war.

"The children have worked with a renowned

mosaic artist to record this heritage for future generations."

The community is invited to a celebratory exhibition of local history and the launch of the mosaic on Monday, October 20.

The pupils discovered more about the young men whose names appear on the village war memorial, spent time in St Nicholas Church and the heritage centre to look at wartime memorabilia, and interviewed different generations of residents.

They worked with mosaic artist Paul Siggins, from Leigh, to handcraft the mosaic.

Mr Siggins added: "We all enjoyed every minute of making the mosaic. Every child in the school has contributed to making this wonderful legacy for generations to come."

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Have your say on late-night trains



EXTRA: c2c could run later trains but has no plans to operate a 24-hour service like the Tube

SOUTHEND rail travellers will be invited to help shape train company c2c's new timetable.

The operator, which runs the Shoeburyness to London Fenchurch Street line, will bring in a new timetable at the end of next year.

A spokesman said the group will be launching a public consultation in the coming weeks.

One plan is to run 'improved late-night services', after customers have often complained that trains stop running too early.

However, a spokesman said the company was

unlikely to run services throughout the night, even when several Tube lines switch over to a 24-hour service in September next year.

He said: "We'll be launching our consultation on the new c2c timetable soon and this will include improved late-night services."

"But Network Rail still requires overnight access to the tracks for their engineers to maintain the line and keep it running smoothly."

"That means additional overnight trains are unlikely at this stage."



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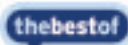
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Wilko's getting back to work

ROCK legend Wilko Johnson is preparing to 'get back to work', representatives have teased.

A message posted online said the star was enjoying a trip to Japan before reprising his career.

The Dr Feelgood songwriter underwent major surgery in April to remove a 'football-sized' malignant tumour.

The guitarist was

By Charles Thomson

southend@yellowad.co.uk

told in January 2013 that he had terminal pancreatic cancer and only 10 months to live.

He underwent further tests in April 2014 as experts could not understand why he was still alive.

Results showed his cancer was less aggressive than previ-

ously thought, but had spread to other organs.

He underwent a pioneering operation at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, in which surgeons removed his pancreas, spleen and parts of his stomach and intestines.

The op will leave

him diabetic but may have extended his life expectancy by decades.

The rocker's official Facebook page announced in early September that he had recruited new managers.

A message posted last week teased Wilko's return to the music world.

It said: "A big thank you for all your messages of support for

Wilko over recent weeks and months. We're pleased to report that he's currently relaxing and enjoying a trip to Japan. Not only that, he's excited about getting back to work. Watch this space."

Wilko topped the UK download chart in March with Going Back Home, an album released with The Who frontman Roger Daltrey. The collection peaked at number three on the overall UK chart.

Daltrey said in May that he would like to record a second album with Wilko if he recovered from his surgery.



ON THE MEND:
Rock legend Wilko Johnson is returning to work

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Jail sentences for benefits cheats

TWO CHEATS who fraudulently pocketed around £14,000 in benefits have been prosecuted by Rochford Council.

Daniel Hunt, 33, formerly from Castle Road, Rochford was sentenced to eight months in jail suspend for a year after he admitted receiving £10,000 in housing and council tax benefits.

He admitted not telling the council about his wife's increased salary and self-employed income.

He was also ordered to do 120 hours unpaid work.

Samantha Currie, 36, of Heron Gardens, Rayleigh, admitted receiving £3,708.25 in housing and council tax benefits she was not entitled to, after failing to declare increased earnings between October 30, 2010 and October 21, 2013.

They both appeared before Southend magistrates on Wednesday, September 24.

Councillor Cheryl Roe portfolio holder for governance at Rochford Council, which brought the prosecutions, said: "Benefit fraud is a disgraceful crime because it is the abuse of a system which is there for those in genuine need."

"We have an excellent fraud investigation team at the council, which will pursue those who take it upon themselves to break the law,"

Hunt and Currie must also repay the over-payments in full.

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CREATIVE: A weekly session at Westwood Art Group

Artists stage annual show

THE FORTY artists who make up Westwood Art Group will display more than 100 paintings at their annual exhibition.

This year, as well as members' work on display, there will be an area where children can draw and paint under supervision – and 'knock Wallace's hat off' on the

Wallace and Gromit Rivet farm model railway.

The art group was formed in 1977 and meets every Wednesday from 9am until noon at Daws Heath Residents' Association Hall in Daws Heath Road.

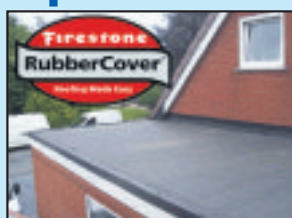
Members work in all mediums.

Activities during the year include demonstrations by visiting artists and club members, and coach outings to gardens and art galleries.

The exhibition is at Hadleigh Old Fire Station, Hadleigh, on Saturday, October 18, from 9.30am to 6pm, and the following day from 10am to 2pm.

What do you think? Write to Readers' Letters, Yellow Advertiser, Acorn House, Great Oaks, Basildon, Essex, SS14 1AH, or e-mail letters@yellowad.co.uk

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Stars come out for film festival

HOLLYWOOD stars from Brad Pitt to Reese Witherspoon will visit the capital next month for the BFI London Film Festival.

The 12-day festival will host 247 feature films, including 17 world premieres.

Screenings, masterclasses and debates will be held all over the capital, from Mayfair, Covent Garden and Chelsea to Hackney, Brixton and Bethnal Green.

The programme includes a number of family screenings and offers cheap tickets for students and OAPs.

The festival offers members of the public the chance to walk up the red carpet with their favourite movie stars for little more than they would pay for an ordinary cinema trip.

Benedict Cumberbatch will walk the carpet in

Leicester Square as the festival kicks off on October 8, with Alan Turing biopic The Imitation Game.

Pop star Bjork will attend a gala screening of documentary Biophilia Live and big screen legend Brad Pitt will greet fans as the festival closes on Sunday, October 19, with World War Two drama Fury.

While many of the festival's red carpet galas and hot picks are currently showing as 'sold out', fast-fingered film fans will be able to bag extra seats released to the public on Thursday, October 2.

In addition to the glitzy premieres, a series of events will be staged to mark the 20th anniversary of Dreamworks animations.

The family strand will host screenings from

3D animation Yellowbird and the new Moomins outing, to the classic 1954 animation of George Orwell's Animal Farm.

A number of documentaries and real-life stories will receive their first airings before British audiences, including Michael Winterbottom's The Face of an Angel, based on the Amanda Knox murder trial.

CitizenFour documents US whistleblower Ed Snowden's quest to expose government spying, while Honeytrap explores east London's gang culture, based on a collection of personal accounts.

More British stories will be told in Mr Turner, starring Timothy Spall as painter Joseph Turner, and London Calling, seven short films by the capital's hottest emerging talents.

Elsewhere, eagle-eyed festival-goers might spot British stars like Kiera Knightley, Dominic West and Alan Rickman.

American visitors will include Anchorman star Steve Carrell and The Daily Show anchor Jon Stewart, who will screen directorial debut Rosewater and attend a debate about freedom of speech.

To find out more or buy tickets, call the BFI on 0207 928 3232, or visit www.bfi.org.uk/lff



3D animation Yellowbird will screen in the Family strand

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Singer Bjork will attend a premiere of her new documentary



Brad Pitt will walk the red carpet at the premiere of war film Fury



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No grounds to pursue Hanningfield over his county council expenses

LORD Hanningfield was not pursued over his Essex County Council expenses because there were 'no clear grounds' to ask for the money back.

County Hall made the admission under Freedom of Information laws, in response to questions from a resident.

A document on the council's website said officers spent almost £30,000 on lawyers trying to recoup £50,689.24

expenses, even though the council believed the peer had 'no intention to commit a fraud' and 'neither was there clear grounds for a civil action to recover a debt'.

The chances of winning court cases were therefore considered to be 'very low'. The council admitted there was no legal basis to demand the money back, after a resident asked in writing

why the peer had not been taken to court.

The council had previously suggested it would sue the former council leader to recoup his expenses, spending £28,043.50 on legal advice.

Current leader David Finch (Con) then publicly called on the peer to repay the money of his own volition.

The new document conceded that

the peer had not broken any of the council's rules.

It said: "The decision not to undertake legal proceedings against Lord Hanningfield was made by the leader of the council, having received advice from both our internal and external auditors as well as legal advice from our own lawyers and counsel."

"The advice from counsel was that

there was no intention to commit a fraud and neither was there clear grounds for a civil action to recover a debt.

"Furthermore, should Essex Council have considered taking such action, the chances of success were considered to be very low and the legal costs could be between £100,000 and £120,000."

wow!

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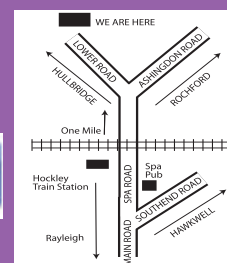
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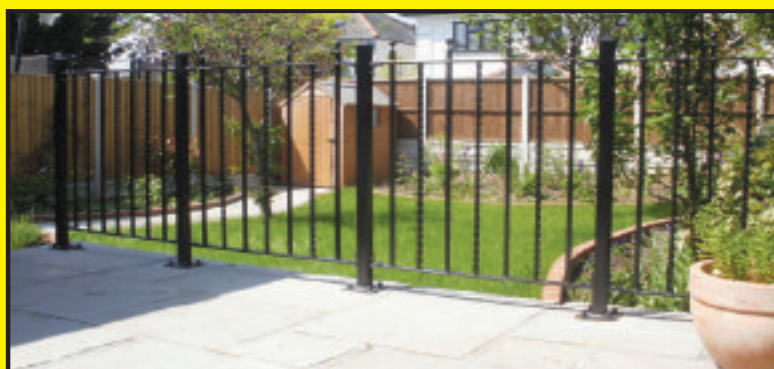


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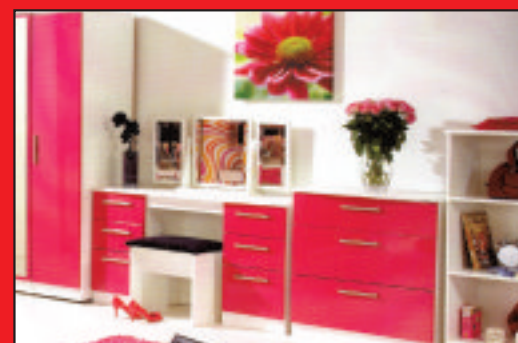
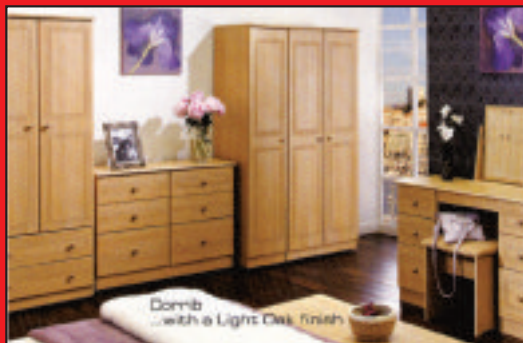
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Opinion and readers' letters

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NOT so long ago, in an unprecedented theatre-quality performance of propaganda and in an attempt to whitewash the facts and circumstances of the British Government spying on its own citizens (and the US government spying on the whole world), three British spy chiefs (Andrew Parker - MI5, John Sawers - MI6, Iain Lobban - GCHQ) attended a hearing of the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee (with members from both Houses).

The spy bosses tried to persuade all who would listen about the "obvious necessity", "normality" and "commonplaceness" of their eavesdropping activities - and their "justification" and excuses for it. Some of them were quite telling.

They compared their illegal activities to searching for a needle (nay, "a fragment of a needle") in a haystack. While the proportions of one terrorist to millions of innocent law-abiding people may be about the same as one needle to millions of blades of grass, blades of grass do not have private lives nor constitutional rights.

Also, in addition to terrorists, they look for criminals and paedophiles, which means, that they don't only read ALL communications between people (including love letters and children's musings), but review all of the financial and purchase information - and, of

course, all of the published and unpublished erotica. All those risqué pictures from the holidays end up on some "overseer's" wall.

All of this snooping is certainly against the US constitution, which is probably why the worldwide internet traffic scanning facility (GCHQ - originally known as "Echelon") is located here in the UK.

Since no monarch nor any politician has bothered to draft it in at least the last 400 years, this country still does not have a written constitution. The majority of the population don't have an inkling of what their rights are.

And while the rest may have some expectations, they have nothing - short of reading a whole library of case law - that they can go to a judge with and say: "Hey, your honour, according to paragraph such and such, the Government can't do this!"

**Fred Nicholson
Westcliff**

Balancing the books

IN March, 2010 I wrote to Vince Cable deploring the actions of successive governments in increasing the minimum wage and then taking a cut by way of PAYE and NIC contributions.

The matter of the minimum wage since then has been taken up by Danny Alexander, Ed Miliband and George Osborne to name but a few. However, they

all fail to address the fundamental aspects of such need, i.e. the cost of living through inflation.

My state pension is automatically raised relative to the effects of inflation, causing me to wonder at the wisdom of employing the Low Wage Unit when that rate too can be automatic.

The tax free band should similarly be increased to ensure that the figure, considered the minimum for a less than reasonable standard of living, should not contribute to the Treasury's coffers.

That benefit should not be extended to standard and higher rate taxpayers and I have assessed that the tax I presently pay could be maintained by increasing the minimum rate to 26p in the pound of taxable income. This would ensure that no one pays neither more nor less than they would have done before implementation of successive increases in the tax free allowance.

It is apparent, however, that, despite Tory cries of distress, in order to balance the budget there needs to be an increase in taxation for there is a limit to the cuts in government expenditure.

Return to the early Thatcher days of a top earned tax rate of 60p would be appropriate.

Insofar as the government constantly pleads for the hard working taxpayers, what about those in receipt of unearned income, landlords among many others, though I would not expect the rate to be 97p as it was in the past.

**Les Harrington
Benfleet**

Self rule for Shoebury

FOLLOWING Scotland's vote, David Cameron is allowing more local self determination across the country.

People living in Shoebury should have a chance to vote for local self rule and break away from Southend's out of touch, financially inept council.

Modern day Shoebury is wealthy and big enough to self govern. We have the finances, ability and infrastructure to achieve representative, truly democratic local government here, delivering greater efficiency, better quality of service to residents and proper preservation of our open spaces and environment for generations to come.

Shoebury residents and businesses pay tens of millions in taxes to Southend. Councillors have for years repeatedly refused to tell us exactly how much they collect from Shoebury and how much they spend here.

Why? They fear us knowing the truth that our money is squandered on interest payments for the massive debts that Southend councillors continue to build up, spending too much on numerous overpaid senior staff, councillors' excessive costs, consultants and unnecessary development schemes.

Shoebury's assets and green spaces have been over developed, plundered, with the profits benefiting others whilst Shoebury loses its vital old heritage buildings, schools, assets, green spaces and environment.

We have less green open spaces now and more poorly planned over development than ever before. Southend Council can't be trusted and has too many hidden agendas for raising money for servicing their bankrupt regime. It will destroy the place where we live if we let it. Just look at what it has done in recent years and its future plans to close libraries.

No more in Shoebury! It is not Southend Council's cash cow. They have had the last blade of grass from Gunners Park. No more assets to be demolished - not one more brick!

If Southend Council need debt money why don't they develop Leigh marshes, Belton way, Thorpe Bay seafront, green space, Chalkwell Park, and Priory Park?

Why aren't Shoebury councillors all fighting our corner? Because some are part of the problem, others get out voted and out manoeuvred.

Look at Shoebury today - who among us would turn the clock back and keep the old

Gunners park? Who wants to stop old Hinguar School, a heritage building from being demolished? Who wants to keep our old people's care homes open? Who wants more affordable creches and nurseries for our kids? Who wants to keep our libraries just as they are and not demolish them for development profits?

With self local government Shoebury could afford all of this and more. It could also contribute money to Southend borough once we have looked after ourselves properly.

Charity begins at home. Shoebury can easily improve its commercial business incentives and facilities, attracting more businesses, creating more local jobs and wealth, collect its own refuse, sweep its own streets, profit from its own waste recycling, regulate its own parking, employ its own people, control its own development. It also has its own fresh water supply.

There are many innovative things that can be achieved with self rule. Shoebury can do a much better, more honest open book, cost efficient job than is being done by the council.

Self local rule for Shoebury is crucial. Enough is enough.

**David Shindler,
Shoebury**

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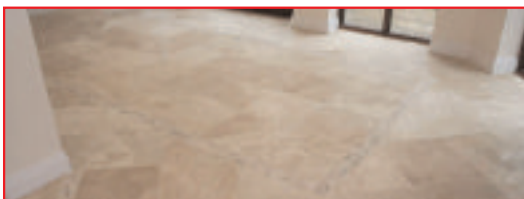
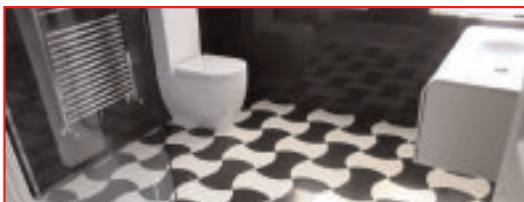
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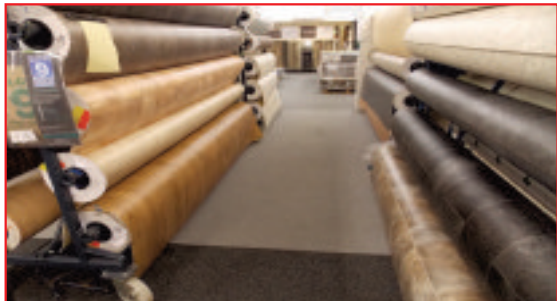
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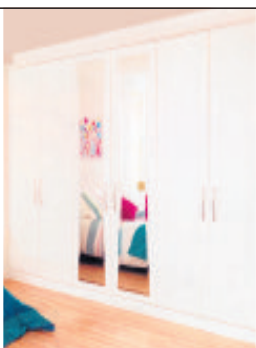
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OH YES IT IS...: The cast of Witch Way to Coz

by LIZ WADE

TALENTED performers from local theatre companies are putting on two great shows this month.

Thurrock Courts Players will be putting their own twist on some favourite childhood characters in a mixed-up pantomime for grown ups – Witch Way to Coz – at Thameside Theatre, Grays, from Thursday to Saturday, October 9 to 11.

Mixing a large pinch of adult humour with all the fun and frivolity of a traditional panto, Witch Way to Coz follows the story of Jack Beansprout as he travels in search of the Wonderful Lizard of Coz, and seeks the courage to face the Evil Edna Twanky along the way.

As his journey takes him along the yellow brick road he meets the absent minded Puss in Boots, two halves of a pantomime horse and the genie of the lamp along the way. Throw in an East End dame and a Big Bad Wolf masquerading as a travelling salesman selling home insulation to little pigs, and you have the perfect recipe for a production that proves pantos are not just for kids at Christmas.

The writer behind the production, Courts member Trevor Povey, is also directing the show, which has an advisory notice that it 'may not be suitable for children, critics and

HE'S BEHIND YOU!

lovers of good theatre'.

A member of Thurrock Courts Players said: "We love to be able to produce our own original works.

"Trevor's clever writing has proved itself hugely successful in the past, and with his rewrite of a famous Mary Poppins song for this show he has surpassed himself.

"Think panto is just for kids at Christmas? Oh No It Isn't..."

Another astounding array of talent which will leave you in awe are the members of the



OH NO IT ISN'T...: Jess Edom and James Hameed as the Phantom and Christine

multi award-winning theatre company, The Essex Group, who will be putting on five performances of The Phantom of the Opera in Basildon, from Wednesday to Saturday, October 15 to 18.

In a unique agreement with the show's writers, a licence has been issued to the company for a short run of one of the world's best ever musicals at the Towngate Theatre.

The Essex Group are well known for attracting large audiences thanks to an

extremely talented bunch of local actors and past shows have included such classics as Westside Story, Half A Sixpence, Oliver, We Will Rock You and last year's Les Misérables.

Back in February the show's directors Gary Sullivan and Patrick Tucker auditioned dozens of young hopefuls for the show, which is very much defined as a youth production. With an upper age limit of 22 they had a huge task to find singers who could cope with the Lloyd Webber score.

● Turn to page 26



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Cinema

Ben Affleck appeals for the return of his missing wife (Rosamund Pike)
PA Photo/Fox UK Film



Vanishing act

GONE GIRL (18, 149 MINS)

IGNORANCE is bliss when it comes to *Gone Girl*. If, like me, you haven't read Gillian Flynn's 2012 psychological thriller and you know nothing of the serpentine twists that propelled the novel to the top of the bestsellers list then jealously guard your cluelessness.

There's an undeniable delight watching Flynn wrong-foot us with this spiky satire on media manipulation and the glossy facade of celebrity marriages.

When the central characters promise to love, honour and obey, till death do them part, one of them takes that vow very seriously.

Admittedly, you have to dig deep beneath the surface of David Fincher's polished film to find the jet black humour but it's there, walking hand-in-hand with sadism and torture that propel the narrative towards its unconventional denouement.

The film version of *Gone Girl* is distinguished by a career-best performance from Rosamund Pike as the pretty wife, who vanishes without trace on her fifth wedding anniversary

and is presumed dead at the hands of her handsome husband (Ben Affleck).

Pike has to plumb the depths of human emotion in a demanding and complex role, by turns brittle and steely, terrified and driven.

She's almost certain to earn her first Oscar nomination.

In stark contrast, Affleck is solid but little more as the spouse who pleads his ignorance but hides secrets from the people he adores.

As battles of the sexes go, it's a resolutely one-sided skirmish.

On the morning of his anniversary, Nick Dunne (Affleck) calls detectives Rhonda Boney (Kim Dickens) and Jim Gilpin (Patrick Fugit) to his home.

There are signs of a struggle and his wife Amy (Pike) is missing.

Nick's sister Margo (Carrie Coon), who has never liked Amy, assures her sibling that everything will be fine.

"Whoever took her's bound to bring her back," she quips cattily.

Nick and Amy's distraught parents (David Clennon, Lisa Beth) front a high-profile media campaign to

secure the safe return of "amazing Amy".

In the glare of the spotlight, fractures appear in the Dunnes' marriage and police and public question Nick's innocence.

Gone Girl holds our attention for the majority of the bloated 149-minute running time, with a couple of lulls and a disjointed final act.

Pike's mesmerising theatrics light up the screen and there is strong support from Neil Patrick Harris as Amy's creepy old flame.

Fincher's direction is lean, complemented by snappy editing and a discordant score by Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross, who won the Oscar for their music to *The Social Network*.

Once you regain your balance from Flynn pulling the rug from under your feet, this is a slick yet slightly underwhelming whodunit that doesn't quite scale the dizzy heights of shock and suspense previously achieved by *Jagged Edge*, *The Usual Suspects* or indeed, Fincher's 2005 film, *Se7en*.

Released: October 2
RATING: 7.5/10

Stage

Double magic with Phantom and Witch

From page 25

After three months of auditions the final cast of 45 young actors began hours of rehearsals and the final results have been astounding with a production that is, within just a few lyrical changes and key adjustments to music, as seen in London to this very day.

Gary Sullivan said: "To be able to take on a show of this magnitude and to mirror in many ways the London production has been the ultimate challenge for us all."

"We have a full orchestra in place, investment has been made to ensure the scenery and costumes

have the opulence of the London show and all the magic and splendour of the original will be there"

The entire cast live in Essex and many are at college studying to become professional actors, singers and dancers. These include 10 girls from the Weston School of Dance in Chelmsford who provide the classic ballet requirements for the show, having spent rigorous hours under the choreographic baton of Hannah Fayers, a graduate of Danceworks in Cambridge.

The show's front line principal players are all accomplished singers of the highest calibre; a benchmark

of which has been applauded by past audiences of Essex Group productions and compared to actors seen on the professional stage.

"For further information and tickets to see *Witch Way* to Coz at Thameside Theatre, Grays, from October 9 to 11, call the Box Office on 0845 300 5264 or visit www.thurrock.gov.uk/thameside-theatre

Tickets for *The Phantom of the Opera*, which runs from October 15 to 18, are available from the Towngate Theatre Box Office on 01268 465465 or by visiting www.towngatetheatre.co.uk

Liz at Large

YA features reporter Liz Wade goes out and about with her boys



Revel in the appliance of science

EVER wanted to know how things work, discover more about renowned engineers and find key moments in the multi-billion year history of the Earth's climate, then head to London's Science Museum.

Packed with interactive exhibits it is the perfect place to not only unravel the answers to these, but unearth the science behind so much more.

Whether you are three or 103, there is something to see, do and learn at this popular and free museum in South Kensington, which is packed with hundreds of thousands of things, each equally as interesting as the last.

Exhibitions at the museum, an institution for almost 150 years, include Making the Modern World, which follows the cultural history of industrialisation from 1750 to the present day.

Here you can explore more than 250 years of science and technology through different objects that mark new discoveries in technology and science, and gaze at thought-provoking objects such as penicillin from Fleming's laboratory, a porcelain bowl salvaged from Hiroshima and a clock that will remain accurate for the next 10,000 years.

Explore James Watt and our World and find out more about the renowned engineer's improved engines which allowed steam to be used everywhere, from pumping coal mines to powering textile mills and breweries. As well as discovering how he was heralded the 'greatest benefactor of the human race' you can take a look at his workshop, preserved just as it was when he died in 1819 and packed with 8,430 fascinating objects from his lifetime.

Discover how science spread beyond the elite circles of the Royal Society to large sections of the population in the 18th century; find out how the invention of clockwork changed the way we measured time from sun dials and water clocks to accurate timepieces; and explore how astronomy changed the way we see our universe by tracing the history of people and the stars.

There are three great areas to keep the children amused.

Launchpad, for eight to 14-year-olds, has more than 50 interactive



AMAZING: The Science Museum is the home of human ingenuity

exhibits, electrifying shows and lively demos, from the world of physics. Its gallery encourages children to ask questions and make sense of the way things work and staff, called Explainers in red T-shirts, have all the answers.

The Pattern Pod, created for five to eight-year-olds and their parents, uses multi-sensory exhibits that look at the many types of pat-

terns in the world around us. The gallery encourages children to recognise and copy patterns, or create new ones of their own, and learn through exploration.

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while developing skills such as observing, predicting, testing and drawing conclusions.

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Saturday, October 4

- Jumble Sale at South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay, CM11 2NS. Clothes, toys, books, bric-a-brac, cakes, refreshments, raffles, tombola. Proceeds to Grenfell Preschool, 10am-noon, admission 20p. 01277 652366.
- Quiz Night St Peter's Church Hall, Thursley Benfleet, 7.30pm for 7.45pm, to book a table call 01268 752012.
- Rayleigh History Walk, 3pm from Rayleigh Windmill, Bellingham Lane, off High Street. £2 pp, info: 01268 775328.
- Yugioh Club, you can play and trade yugioh, 120 Southend Road, St Catherine's Church Hall, Wickford, SS11 8EB, mini tournaments, Saturdays 1.30-4.20pm. 07985 671289.
- Dads and Kids Club, The Megacentre, Rayleigh, 10.30am-1.30pm, free admission, games, activities, arts and crafts, for boys and girls, five to 17 years with their fathers and father figures. 01268 779100.
- Saturday Morning Club, St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Road, 10am-noon, entertainment provided by choirs, soloists, musicians, refreshments, admission free, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled. 01702 437863.
- Meeting, Brush Strokes Art Group, Highlands Methodist Church, Leigh, 9.15am-12.15pm, new members welcome. 01277 627043.
- Different Strokes Exercise Class, St Peter's Church Hall, Eastbourne Grove, Southend, for those who have had a stroke, 2.30pm. 01702 612509.
- Jazz Workshop, Southend Jazz Co-op, Hadleigh old Fire Station, Hadleigh, 10am-1pm, £5 per session (concessions).
- South East Essex Branch of the Essex Society for Family History, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea 12.30pm.
- Transmission Meditation Workshop,

Helliwell Room, Forum Library, Southend, 10-11.30am. Free admission.

Sunday, October 5

- Canvey Miniature Railway Train Rides, next to Waterside Sport Centre, Somers Avenue, Canvey Island, SS9 9RA. 10.30am-4pm, choice of two railways, steam and electric locos. Adults and children £1 each ride, weather permitting.
- Hockley & District Horticultural Society trading hut, 10am to noon, for all your gardening sundries, membership £3, behind Hawkwell Village Hall, Main Road, Hawkwell.
- Jazz, Ron Spack's Dinner Jazz, Westcliff Hotel, Westcliff, 1pm. 01702 345247.
- Sunday School, Get on Board (free) The Ark, Hadleigh Methodist Church, Chapel Lane, SS7 2PQ, 11am-noon, age three to 10. 07585 601815 or 07967 913344.
- Quaker Meeting for silent worship and meditation, Quaker Meeting House, Dundonald Drive, Leigh, 10.30-11.30am, followed by conversation over tea and biscuits.
- King's Church Southend at Blenheim School, off Blenheim Chase, Leigh, 10.30am-noon. 01702 523639.
- Greek Community of Southend & District, Church of St Barbara, St Phanourios and St Paul, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff, 10am-noon. 01702 466435.
- Sunday Club, TGH Evangelical Church, Kiln Road, Thursley, (children three to 12), Bible stories, craft, singing, 10.45-11.45am, no charge, details 01702 554904.

Monday, October 6

- Mojo Friendship Club, Travellers Joy, Downhall Road, Rayleigh, 11.30am, details Mo on 07757 658799.
- Beginners dance class, usually six-week course, ballroom, Latin American, Ashington & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Leigh Scrabble Club, 7-10pm. All standards welcome. Wesley Hall, Leigh Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea. Just turn up or call Peter on 01268 727915.
- George Hurd Centre, Basildon, for the over-50s, Craft: 10am-noon, Taichi: Whist 9.45am-12.30pm, 10am-noon, Art: 12.30-2.30pm, Choir: 2.30-4pm, Indoor bowls: 2-4pm. £2, 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club, Richmond Hall, Benfleet, Mondays 1.30-3.30pm.
- Southend Christian counselling service, open to all, Mondays 5.30-7.30pm and Thursdays 2-7.30pm, call our 24-hour answer machine 01702 335252 and we will get back to you.

- Over-50s Keep-fit Classes, Fryerns Community Centre, Monday afternoons, further details, call Pat on 01268 770294.
- Over-50s session, Megacentre Rayleigh, 7 Brook Road, Badminton and table tennis 2-4pm. £3.50 includes refreshments and equipment. 01268 773100.
- Activity Session for adults with special needs, 10am-noon, The Megacentre, Rayleigh, Brook Road, Rayleigh, £1 per session, no charge for carers.
- Duplicate Bridge, Balmoral Bridge Club, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh (opposite Thames Drive), Mondays 1.15pm-4.30pm and Tuesdays 7pm-10.30pm, call Vernon on 01702 343611 or Tony on 01702 520993.
- Duplicate Bridge, Thorpe Bay Bridge Club, Southchurch Boulevard, Southend, all standards welcome, 2-4.45pm (no partner needed), evenings 7.30-10.30pm, call Danny 07843 771774.
- Weekly Craft Workshop, St Peter's Church Hall, Thursley, Benfleet, 6-8pm, details Michelle 07730 582784.
- Basildon Players Amateur Dramatic Group, Mondays and Wednesdays 8-10pm, James Hornsby High School, Leinster Road, Laindon, details Jeff Levy 07951 681582 or email join@basildonplayers.co.uk.
- Zumba, Pitsea Day Centre Over-50s, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.15-10am. 01268 465432.
- Club 60, Southend, every weekday, 9.30-4pm, tea bar, non-members welcome, £2 day pass, details 01702 613562.
- Short Mat Bowls Club in Hadleigh, new hall all mod/cons, four mats, Monday and Wednesday evenings welcomes new members, Canvey Short Mat Bowls Club, please ring Kevin on 01268 792433.
- Short Mat Bowls, Monday/Tuesday afternoons in Thursley, beginners welcome, details 01268 779174.
- Indoor Short Mat Bowls, Prittlewell Bowls Club, Priory Park, Southend, Monday to Friday, new players welcome, details Ray 01268 777666.
- Indoor Bowls, George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, Mondays 2-4pm, Tuesdays 2.15-4.45pm, Wednesdays 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465854.
- Whist, George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for over-50s, 10am-noon, details 01268 465854.
- Senior Citizens Club, Ghyllgrove Centre, Butneys, 1.30-3.30pm, make friends, bingo, trips. 01268 293995.
- Pensioners Stall, York Road Outdoor Market, Southend, every Monday and Thursday 8am-2pm.
- Evening of clairvoyance, Room 2,

- Paddocks, Long Road, Canvey, doors open 7.30pm, admission £3, all profits to local charities, healing available after service 9pm, enquiries 01268 691922.
- Healing, from 10.30am-4pm, qualified NFSH healers, no charge, all donations to local hospice, call 07956 353564.
- Development Healing Circle, Face Salon, Burdett Avenue, Westcliff, an understanding of spiritual healing and prayer, 8-9.30pm, details 07879 004744.
- Fitness Walking, from Leigh Tennis Club, Highlands Boulevard, Leigh, Monday and Thursday 7.15-8.15pm. 01702 715509.
- Scrabble Club, Wesley Church Hall, Elm Road, Leigh Broadway, (opposite police station), beginners welcome, no partner needed, 7-10pm, £3 including tea/coffee, just turn up or call 01268 727915.
- Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group, Buttercup Club, St Michael's and All Angels Church, Sir Walter Raleigh Drive, Rayleigh, 9.30am and 11am. 01702 712150.

Tuesday, October 7

- Alzheimer's Society, cafe for people living with dementia, family, carers and professionals. Speaker from Essex Fire Service. St Peter's Hall Eastwood Road North, SS9 4BX, 2-4pm, 01702 345156.
- Pamper and Gift Evening, Wick Community Centre, Silva Island, Wickford. Therapeutic and beauty treatments, hypnotherapy, Thai massage, jewellery, babies' and children's clothes, shoes, handbags, handmade goods, shellac nails, slimming consultant. 6.30-10pm, admission £2.50 01268 572727 or email: pampere@yahoo.co.uk.
- Shoebyrness & Thorpe Bay Civil Service Retirement Fellowship, social afternoons, speakers, refreshments. Salvation Army Hall, Frobsier Way, 2-4pm. (1st Tuesday of each month).
- Tea Dance 1.45pm. St Cedd's Church, Bridgewater Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, Friendly Group, 07583544928.
- Social Dance Class, ballroom, Latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashington & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.
- Table Tennis, 7.30-10.30pm, The Megacentre Brook Road, Rayleigh, £3.60 per session.
- Singles Friendship club for the over-55s? South Benfleet Social Club with a variety of events. Maureen 01268 692998.
- Weekly Craft Group, Oasis Coffee House, Leigh Road, Leigh. 2.30-4pm. No charge or booking required. Emma 01702 471873.

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■ Evening of Clairvoyance, St Cecilia's Christian Spiritualist Church, Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, enquiries to Anne on 01702 556470.

■ Folk Music, The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club, Royal British Legion, 7/9 Northview Drive, Westcliff, Steve Tilston, 8pm. 01702 715111.

■ Tea Dance, Ashington Memorial Hall, Ashington Road, Rochford, ballroom, Latin and sequence, 2-4pm. 01702 584575.

■ Scrabble Club, Hockley Social Centre (rear of library) 6.30-10pm, first two visits free, also second and fourth Saturday of each month 2-5pm. All ages welcome, 01702 205910.

■ Meeting, Ladies Fellowship at the Salvation Army in Hadleigh, 7.30pm, any age, good speakers, chatter nights, outings, meals out and summer walks, 50p per week or annual subscription, just come along or call 01702 551470.

■ Puffer's Club, Exercise Class for people with breathing difficulties, run by people with breathing difficulties, Ambleside Sports and Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, 12.45-2.30pm. 01702 610050/466827.

■ Pathfinders Blind and Partially Sighted Group, Tuesdays and Fridays, Fryerns Baptist Church, Whitmore Way, activities and outings, Tuesdays 9.30am-2pm and Fridays 10am-2.30pm.

■ Evening of Clairvoyance, St Cecilia's Church, 9 Lord Roberts Avenue, Leigh, 7.15pm, £2, enquiries Anne 01702 556470.

■ The George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s, yoga 10-11am; Sit down yoga 11.10am-12.10pm; keep-fit noon-1pm; line dancing 1.20-2.20pm; chess 1.30-3.30pm and craft 1.30-3.30pm. 01268 465854.

■ Singles Social Group, meets at The Mews, Nelson Mews off Clarence Road car park, Southend, age group 50-plus, 8pm. 07970 432994.

■ Singles Friendship Club for 50-plus, South Benfleet Social Club, 8.15pm, details Maureen 01268 692998.

■ New and Nearly New Stall, outside St Martin's Church, Town Centre, Basildon, facing the gardens (if wet, inside church foyer), 10am-noon.

■ Table Top Sale, Outpatients Foyer, Southend Hospital, 9.30am-3pm, Breathe Easy Southend, helping support people

with lung problems. 01702 258661.

■ Carpet Bowls, Eastwood Community Centre, top of Morrisons car park, 1.45-3.45pm, (and every Thursday 3.30-5.30pm), no experience necessary.

■ Non-competitive, £2 per session including tea, joining fee £5, first session free.

■ Bingo and Hoy, Wick Community Centre, Wickford, 1.30-4pm, details John Clarke 01268 570575.

■ Top Cats Social Club, (Southend Menap), Castle View School, Meppel Avenue, Canvey, 7-9.45pm, for adults with learning disabilities age 25-plus, £2 per session, details 01702 341250.

■ Tuesday Luncheon Club, Inter-Church Caring for the Elderly and Disabled, Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff, for people living alone or with their carers, details 01702 478691/525141/340617.

■ Little Lunchers Activity Club, St Michael's Church, Rayleigh, 11.45am-1.15pm.

■ Vange Tots, The Vange Community Centre, Vange Hill Drive, Vange, 9.30-11.30am, admission £1, snack and drinks provided. 01268 498642.

■ Shoebury Flagship, Rainbow Children's Centre, Friars School, Constable Way, Shoebury, 1.30-3.30pm, health visiting team offering activities, advice and support for parents with babies and children aged up to five years. 01702 577656.

Wednesday, October 8

■ Breathe Easy Group, mutual support, friendship and advice, every second Wednesday, 1.30-3.30pm, Small Hall, Our Lady of Good Counsel, London Road, Wickford, Marlene Harris, beekeeping.

■ Jazz Circle, Rhythmic Reeds, recorded music, every second Wednesday, 8pm, Ekco Clubhouse, Thornden Gardens.

■ Essex Handicrafts Association, second Wednesday, St Barnabas Church Hall, Hadleigh, 01702 479862.

■ Belvedere Jazz & Music Club, The Chichester Rawthorpe, Wickford, Jacqui Hicks + Julian Marc String Quartet, 8-10.30pm, £10 pay on the door.

■ New Thundersley Townswomen and Guilds is looking for new members, meet first and third Wednesdays, St George's Church Hall, Rushbottom Lane, South Benfleet, 1.30-3.15pm contact Norma 01268 794694.

■ Concord Ladies Club of Rayleigh, 1.30-3pm. Speakers, social afternoons, outings and Christmas meal. Cailey Hall, Crown Hill, Rayleigh, 01268 743240.

■ Leigh Singles Social Club, 45 to 65-year-olds. Bellini's, London Road, Leigh. See our

website www.leighsingles.co.uk.

■ Activity Session for young with special needs, ages five to 18. The Megacentre, Brook Road, Rayleigh. Donation of £1 per session, siblings welcome.

■ Graham's Social Tea Dance, Richmond Hall, Richmond Avenue, Benfleet. Afternoon, of ballroom and Latin and sequence dances for all abilities. 2-4.25pm, free parking, strictly over-18s, £4 per person. 01268 752473.

■ George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s. Keep fit 10-11am; Sit down keep-fit 10-11am; salsa/ballroom 11.30am-12.30pm; sequence dance 12.30-1.15pm; art 1.30-3.30pm and indoor bowls 1.30-3.30pm, £2, 01268 465854.

■ Barn Dance, Grand Ceilidh Club, Royal Naval Association, East Street, Southend, live music, 8.30pm. 01702 553622.

■ Indoor Carpet Bowls, St Edmunds Hall, Pantile Avenue, Southend, 2-4pm, details contact Olive 01702 309280.

■ Played Bowls Before? Come and try it at FS&S Club, Gardiners Close, Basildon, all-weather green, free coaching, regular club mornings, call Chris 01268 419831.

■ Breathing Exercise Group, run by Breathe Easy Basildon, Steeple View Memorial Hall, 1-2.30pm. If you have COPD or recently finished pulmonary rehabilitation, call Honore 01268 574390.

■ Leigh Singles Social Club, Bellini's, London Road, Leigh, for ages 45-65, 8pm. www.leighsingles.co.uk

■ Social afternoon of ballroom and Latin dancing, Mill Hall, Rayleigh, 1.45-4.15pm, with Pat and Bob. 01702 544112.

■ Line Dancing lessons, St Margaret's Church Hall, Lime Avenue, Leigh, 12.30-2.30pm, helping to raise funds for the church hall. 01268 281488.

■ Afternoon Tea Dance, Richmond Hall, High Road, Benfleet, (entrance off Richmond Avenue), free car park, 2-4.30pm, £4 per person, refreshments, over-18s. 01268 752473.

■ Health Walk, Canvey Sea Wall, 10.30am, meet Labworth car park, Canvey Island, 01702 318121.

■ Meeting, Alanon, International/Worldwide Support Group for families, wives, husbands, friends of alcoholics and those with addictions, Sutton Road, All Saints Church, Southchurch, Southend, 7.30pm, (non-denominational).

■ Pulse Drum Club, St David's Church Hall, Rayleigh Road, Eastwood, 3.45pm-4.45pm, £3 per session. 01702 540111.

■ Over-50s session. Megacentre Rayleigh, Brook Road, Rayleigh. Badminton and

short mat bowls 2-4pm, £3.50 includes refreshments and use of equipment. 01268 773100.

■ Activity sessions, The Megacentre, Brook Road, Rayleigh, for children with special needs aged five to 18, free admission, siblings welcome. 01268 779100.

■ Palace Writers Group, 7.30pm, alternating venues with the Palace and Cliffs Pavilion, open mic events and public readings, details Emily 01702 390472.

■ Meeting, Roche Art Group, St Teresa's Church Hall, Ashington Road, Rochford, 7.30-9.30pm, visitors welcome, details Gill 01702 421737.

■ Advanced Computer Course for over-50s, Pitsea Day Centre, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea, 9.30-11.30am. 01268 465432.

■ Over-50s Session, The Megacentre, Rayleigh, Wednesdays and Thursdays 2-4pm, badminton and short mat bowls, session price 3.50 includes refreshments and use of equipment. 01268 779100.

■ Duplicate Bridge, Highlands Methodist Church, Olive Avenue, Leigh, small friendly club, 7.30pm, details Hilary 01702 712501.

■ Parent and Toddler Messy Play Group, Buttercup Club, Leigh Community Centre, Elm Road, Leigh, 9.30am and 11am, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 01702 712150.

■ Brentwood Buddies social club for ages 40-60 at the Essex Arms, Brentwood, 8pm. Contact Julie 07969071392 text or phone before turning up.

Thursday, October 9

■ Leigh-on-Sea Camera Club, meeting 7.45-10pm, Leigh Community Centre. New members welcome, compact or DSLR. Lectures/competitions. Visitors £3, www.leighcamclub.co.uk.

■ Social Dance Class ballroom, latin American and sequence, 8.30-10.30pm, Ashington & East Hawkwell Memorial Hall. Info: 01702 546219/542349.

■ Carol's Jazz Crew at The Park View, Chalkwell Park, Westcliff, 01702 483900. 3rd Thursday of the month, 8-10.30pm, entry £5.

■ George Hurd Centre, Audley Way, Basildon, for the over-50s. Line dancing 1-2pm; computer £3 1-3.30pm; indoor bowls 2.15-4.15pm; bridge 9.30am-12.30pm and ceramics 1.30-3pm. £2, 01268 465854.

■ Health Walk, Hockley Woods, 10.45am, car parking in Hockley Woods Car Park, details 01702 318121.

■ Jive classes, Ambleside Social Club, Ambleside Drive, Southend, from 8pm, £5 (first night free) 07771 831507.

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Advertisement feature

eating out

One of the UK's top ten

OPULENT beauty, dedicated service and exotic royal cuisine can be found at the award-winning Maharaja.

The restaurant, in London Road, Benfleet, has twice been nominated as one of the top 10 Indian restaurants in the UK, during the British Curry Awards.

More than 1,500 restaurateurs witnessed its second triumph last year, during a ceremony at London's Battersea Evolution.

A record 40,000 public nominations were received for the awards, covering more than 2,700 restaurants.

The Maharaja was voted best in the South East and became one of the top 10 restaurants in the UK, in the final heats of the 'Oscars' of the UK curry restaurant industry.

Siraj Ali, owner of The Maharaja, said: "To be nominated again, as one of the top 10 best Indian restaurants in the country is certainly a dream come true."

"We are always here to ensure that our customers are given the best of everything, and their loyalty and enjoyment has seen the Maharaja rewarded for its pursuit of excellence in Indian cuisine and dining."

"We would like to say a huge thanks to our customers who have helped us reach the pinnacle of success in the industry."

The Maharaja is an Indian restaurant full of heritage, which offers unique and exotic Royal Indian cuisine in a traditional setting fit for a Maharaja.



The Ali family prides itself on providing excellence in cuisine, service and ambience for each and every diner, with authenticity and customer service at the very core.

Specialities include lobster, king prawn, salmon, trout and exotic freshwater fish from the Indian Ocean, including Tilapia, while exciting new dishes include ostrich, venison, duck, whole leg of lamb and whole chicken.

The Maharaja has a wealth of offers including 'eat as much as you like' buffet nights starting from just £9.95 per person and a la carte options, as well as early bird deals.

Current deals include a 'four for three' drinks offer where you can buy four drinks at the bar and only pay for three, and a 'Two for One'

offer on its a la carte menu for restaurant diners from Sunday to Thursday - buy one starter and main course, or main course and dessert, and received another absolutely free.

There are also large party discounts and a resident DJ from Thursday through to Saturday, so you can start the weekend early. The Maharaja is also the perfect setting for Christmas celebrations and is already taking bookings for December, so anyone interested is urged to call for further information and book early to avoid disappointment. With a free three-course meal for the host for Christmas bookings of a minimum of six people, the Maharaja offers outstanding value-for-money this festive season.

Its takeaway service allows you to dine like a King in your own home, and boasts free home delivery as well as a further discount.

Choose the Maharaja for its opulent beauty, dedication to service, and exotic royal cuisine... it's easy to forget that you are not royalty there.

The restaurant is open from noon to 2.30pm, and from 5.30pm to 11.30pm, from Monday to Wednesday; from noon to 2.30pm, and from 5.30pm to midnight, from Thursday to Saturday; and from noon to 11pm on Sundays and bank holidays.

For further information, or to book a table, call the restaurant on 01268 794541 / 01268 792141 or visit www.maharajagroup.co.uk

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*Ask a member of staff for details or go to www.maharajagroup.co.uk

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OR BY EMAIL: info@maharajagroup.co.uk
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Fri & Sat 12 noon - 2.30pm & 5.30pm - Late bar until 1am
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eating out

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Throughout the year you can enjoy a drink and a bite to eat in The Bell's comfortable bar – open all day, every day – or a delicious meal in its 50-seater Chimes Restaurant, which is open every evening and for Sunday lunch.

Its mid-week menu, offering a choice of two courses for £10.95 or three courses for just £11.95, is packed with a wide range of choices, from whitebait and Italian pasta to smoked mackerel and soup of the day to start, followed by a fantastic range of main dishes such as homemade pie of the day, home-cooked ham with eggs, pan-fried liver and bacon, baked seafood and homemade lasagne.

If you have room for more, then there are a range of delicious sweets to enjoy from the trolley.

An a la carte menu is served in the restaurant on Saturday evenings which also has extensive choice including venison pate, Scottish smoked salmon, garlic mushrooms, and rosemary and garlic brie for



starters, and succulent roast, pork tenderloin, lamb shank, chicken Portobello – succulent chicken breast smothered with Madeira and mushroom sauce – as well as grill and fish dishes for mains.

All of this is complimented by a wide range of side orders and desserts including sweets from the trolley.

More choice is available on Sunday as they serve a snack menu in the bar area and a comprehensive blackboard which always includes a choice of four roasts, their famous home made pie of the day and fresh fish, and other dishes.

Its Sunday lunch menu costs £8.95 for a main meal, £10.75 for two courses and £12.25 for three courses.

There is also a comprehensive bar menu offering a range of favourites from prawn cocktail, potato wedges and rack of ribs, to burger meals, scampi and ploughman's.

The Chimes Restaurant can also be hired for private functions, whether you want to enjoy a sit-down meal for up to 50 people, or a buffet style celebration for up to 100.

During the summer you can enjoy al fresco dining at the front of the

premises, and every Thursday evening from 9pm there is a Quiz Night in the bar area.

With so much to offer, including free wi-fi, it is clear why so many people make The Bell & Chimes their first choice, whether they are looking for a quick lunch, a bite to eat after work, the perfect location for a social gathering or celebration, or the venue for a business lunch.

For further information, or to make a reservation, call The Bell & Chimes Restaurant on 01245 400616 or visit www.bellandchimesrettendon.co.uk

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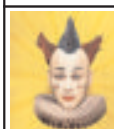
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BENFLEET £235,000

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WESTCLIFF £249,995

Excellent Mid Terraced House. Central location. 3 bedrooms, Lounge. Fitted Kitchen/Diner. Bathroom/w.c. Secluded garden. EER D



LEIGH-ON-SEA £399,950

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Pine Road, Hadleigh £265,000

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Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea £135,000

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We are delighted to offer to the market this recently refurbished, 2 bedroom flat in Leigh-on-Sea.

The property benefits from a spacious open plan living area, newly fitted shower room and double glazing throughout. Located just a short walk from Leigh Broadway, this property would make an ideal first purchase or investment. Keys held for viewings. **Sole Agent**



Western Road, Daws Heath OIRO £280,000

POPULAR LOCATION

We are delighted to offer this 3 bedroom detached property set within the ever popular Daws Heath area. The property benefits from spacious downstairs living accommodation as well as 3 bedrooms, a double garage and off street parking for up to 3 vehicles. Just a short walk from schools, parks and woodland, this property would make an ideal family home.



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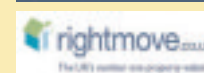
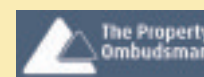
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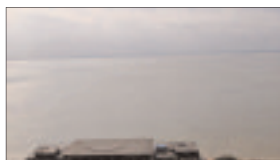
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Rochford £90,000

A one bed ground floor retirement flat in the popular Lucan Lodge Development. Benefiting from its own door providing access to the communal gardens. Located within easy access to Rochford Square & mainline railway station. Viewing essential. No onward chain.



Paglesham £129,995

house boat in full cruising order with a permanent mooring, the property is situated in the sought after village of Paglesham with far reaching views. The vessel is approximately 20 years old and benefits from a wood burner, fitted kitchen, bathroom and many more features.



Rochford £149,995

2 bed 1st floor (non warden assisted retirement apartment designed for the over 55's. a modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, en suite bedroom, lift to all floors, security video entry system.



South Fambridge £193,995

Located in a popular village setting is this three bedroom end terrace cottage. In need of some updating further benefits include two reception rooms, partial double glazing and ground floor bathroom. The property would make an ideal first or investment purchase.



Rochford £195,000

A unique town centre property having the advantage of three good sized bedrooms, modern fitted bathroom, en suite and fitted kitchen. The property has been modernised throughout and is offered with no onward chain.



Eastwood £205,000

A two bedroom bungalow situated in a pleasant location benefiting from a garage and courtyard garden. The property has the added advantage of a 22'3" lounge / diner, shower room, fitted kitchen, lean to / conservatory and ample storage. No onward chain. viewing essential.



South Fambridge £204,995

A top floor 7 year old apartment, a lift to all floors and ample parking, an enclosed balcony with views over the river Crouch, maintained to a high standard and includes quality fittings to include a modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, modern bathroom, en suite to master.



Rochford £210,000

2 bed semi detached bungalow has been refurbished throughout to include new gas central heating, new kitchen with some integrated appliances, and a new bathroom suite. The property is offered with no onward chain and has off street parking to the front for two vehicles.



Canewdon £214,995

3 bed home, Canewdon, a ground floor cloakroom, a lounge diner, fitted kitchen, low maintenance rear garden, three spacious bedrooms and a family bathroom, backing onto a local park with views over the river crouch. viewing essential.



Rochford £214,995

2 bed semi house located in a central part of Rochford, a plot measuring approximately 27ft x 106ft with rear access via double opening gates. Internally the house benefits from two good size bedrooms, a 4 piece bathroom, modern fitted kitchen diner and lounge, upvc double glazing.



Great Wakering £229,950

3 bed semi detached family house. Complete with part integral garage and landscaped south facing garden. The property is within easy reach of local schools, shops and bus routes and worthy of an early appointment to view. The property is offered with no onward chain.



Rochford £234,995

2/3 bed semi detached chalet is well maintained throughout and is deceptively spacious. The property has the benefit of double glazing, fitted kitchen and a modern family bathroom. The lounge is 17' x 11'10" with a separate dining room/bedroom three and there is also study.



Ashingdon £234,995

3 bed semi detached house with a garage. The property benefits from a modern fitted kitchen diner, a modern white bathroom suite, gas central heating, double glazing and a unoverlooked rear garden, located in a popular residential location, close to local shops and transport links.



Ashingdon £349,995

4 bed, two reception room detached family house. advantage of a modern fitted bathroom, as well as a separate shower room. Further features include a garage plus parking and a mature rear garden. Located in a popular area of Ashingdon.



Ashingdon £284,995

3 bed detached chalet located in a convenient location the property benefits from dining room 19'1", lounge, 21'4", kitchen / breakfast room 21'4", garage and off road parking, established well maintained rear garden, gas central heating and double glazing. VIEWING ESSENTIAL.



Eastwood £279,995

3/4 bed semi chalet 2 reception rooms plus conservatory, modern fitted kitchen and a ground floor bathroom. 3 good size bedrooms plus a study / bedroom 4 and WC, a studio / cinema room. off road parking and a rear garden measuring approximately 56 wide to the rear.



Rochford £239,995

A three bedroom semi detached house with a garage and driveway, located in the small village of Great Stambridge, yet within easy access to Rochford mainline train station and local amenities, the property benefits from two reception rooms, en suite to master bedroom, gas central heating and no onward chain.



Ashingdon £249,995

An extended superb two bedroom semi detached bungalow located in a very popular road, the property has been maintained to a high standard to include a modern high gloss fitted kitchen, a modern white bathroom suite, lounge and dining area, an approximate 90 ft south facing rear garden and upvc double glazing, off road parking and 26'9" garage. viewing essential.



Canewdon £575,000 - £625,000

6 beds large accommodation throughout, three reception rooms, conservatory/bathroom 3 bedrooms and a modern kitchen, a balcony overlooking the garden, the second bedroom also has an ensuite, property backs onto farmland and has various outbuildings and a double garage.



Ashingdon £395,000

4 beds conservatory overlooking the rear garden. Further features include a 21' lounge and a separate dining room, a lovely kitchen with some integrated appliances and a utility room. G/F cloakroom/bedroom has en-suite shower room and bathroom. 16'11" x 14'1" garage 70' rear garden.



Rochford £350,000 - £370,000

4 bed situated close to Rochford town centre so is within distance to the mainline station, extended to the rear and has 3 reception rooms, one with bi fold doors, leading onto and overlooking the garden, fitted kitchen, g/f cloakroom, family bathroom and an en suite to the master bedroom.



Ashingdon £249,995

An extended superb two bedroom semi detached bungalow located in a very popular road, the property has been maintained to a high standard to include a modern high gloss fitted kitchen, a modern white bathroom suite, lounge and dining area, an approximate 90 ft south facing rear garden and upvc double glazing, off road parking and 26'9" garage. viewing essential.



Ashingdon £249,995

An extended superb two bedroom semi detached bungalow located in a very popular road, the property has been maintained to a high standard to include a modern high gloss fitted kitchen, a modern white bathroom suite, lounge and dining area, an approximate 90 ft south facing rear garden and upvc double glazing, off road parking and 26'9" garage. viewing essential.

LETTINGS

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Rochford £725 pcm

one bedroom second floor retirement apartment. This development boasts many facilities which include a residents lounge, function room, restaurant with waitress service, video entry system. Positioned within close proximity of shops, bus links and mainline railway station.

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Rochford £750 pcm

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Rochford £750 pcm

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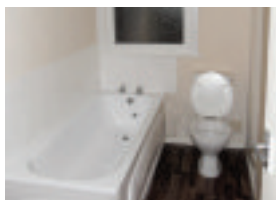


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Coombeewood Drive, THUNDERSLEY \ Guide £425,000 - £440,000



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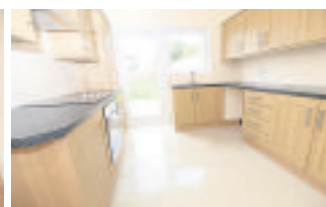
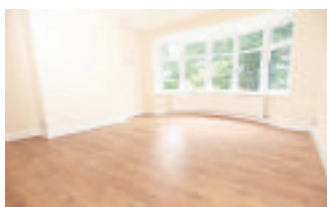
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Five Year Old Four Bedroom Detached Executive Family Home In Sought After Location \ Spacious Accommodation \ King John Catchment \ Easy Access Of Local Woodland \ Garage \ Good Size Garden \ Epc - B \ Call 01702 555888

Kiln Road, THUNDERSLEY \ Offers In Excess Of £325,000



OPEN
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OPEN HOME THIS SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 11AM - 1PM. PHONE NOW TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT ON 01702 555888!

Stunning, Completely Refurbished Three Double Bedroom Semi Detached Family Home \ King John Catchment \ No Onward Chain \ Large South Facing Garden \ Re-Wired & Re-Plumbed \ Ample Off Street Parking \ Epc - C \ Call 01702 555888

HADLEIGH / £210,000

Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow \ Lounge 12'3 x 11'2 \ Kitchen 9'11 x 7'3 \ Lean To 8'5 x 7'7 \ Bedroom 13'10 x 11'5 \ Bedroom Two 10'11 x 10'3 \ Three Piece Bathroom Suite \ Off Street Parking \ Short Walk From Hadleigh Town Centre \ Vacant Possession \ No Onward Chain \ Popular Location \ Keys Held For Accompanied \ Call 01702 555888

HADLEIGH / Guide £130,000 - £135,000

Spacious First Floor Flat In This Character Building Having Many Fine Features Throughout \ Desirable Location Close To Hadleigh Town Centre & Hadleigh Country Park \ Lounge/Diner 17'4 x 12'10 \ Kitchen 10'11 x 7'9 \ Bedroom 14'2 x 9'8 \ Three Piece Bathroom Suite \ 65ft South Backing Rear Garden \ Off Street Parking \ Long Lease \ No Management Charge \ Epc - D \ Call 01702 555888

BASILDON / £189,995

Superb Example Of A Two Bedroom Family Home Having Been Extended With many Fine Features Throughout \ Lounge/Diner 23'6 x 16'8 Narrowing To 9'5 \ Large Kitchen 15'9 x 12'1 \ Utility Room 9'5 x 4'5 \ Bedroom One 10'3 x 10' \ Bedroom Two 16'8 x 9'5 \ High Quality Bathroom Suite With Jacuzzi/Spa Bath \ Alarm \ Water Meter \ Low Running Costs \ Call 01702 555888

THUNDERSLEY / £225,000

Charming Two Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow With many Character Features \ Popular Location \ Lounge 11'11 x 10' \ Kitchen/Breakfast Room 13' x 10' \ Bedroom One 11'11 10' \ Bedroom Two 10'1 x 10' \ Four Piece Bathroom Suite \ West Backing Garden \ Off Street Parking \ Well Maintained \ Must Be Viewed \ Double Glazing \ Call 01702 555888

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA / O.I.E.O: £322,000

Deceptively Spacious Family Home On Ever Popular Somerset Estate \ Lounge 22'10 x 11'10 \ Study/Ground Floor Bedroom Four 9'11 x 7'11 \ Bathroom & Shower Room \ Bedroom One 12'5 x 10'7 Into Wardrobes \ Bedroom Two 11'10 x 9'11 \ Bedroom Three 11'3 x 6'11 \ Large Rear Garden \ Garage & Off Street Parking \ Superb Condition \ Epc - E \ Call 01702 555888

Olive Avenue, LEIGH-ON-SEA / £395,000

Substantial Three/Four Bedroom Semi Detached Family Home \ On The Ever Popular Highlands Estate \ Ideally Located For Leigh Broadway, Mainline Station & Belfairs Woods \ Westleigh Catchment \ Sitting Room 14'2 x 10' \ Lounge Into Bay x 12'6 \ Breakfast Room 10'7 x 9'7 \ Kitchen 10'8 x 8'6 \ Utility Room 9'5 x 5'5 \ Ground Floor Bedroom/Reception 12' x 10'2 \ Two Bathrooms \ Bedroom One 16' x 11'1 \ Bedroom Two 14'1 x 10'7 \ Bedroom Three 8'9 x 7'6 \ 70ft Garden \ Superb Family Home \ Call 01702 555888



Family home



Southchurch £250,000

Impressive refurbished three bed semi detached chalet bungalow located in popular residential area. The modern style interior offers a newly installed contemporary kitchen/ breakfast room and newly installed family bathroom and en suite to master bedroom (both in progress). Viewing recommended. Ref: ETS4898



New instruction

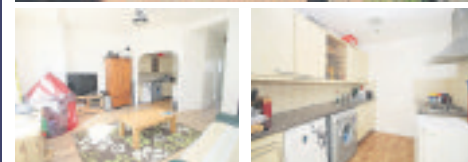


Southend-on-Sea OIEO £80,000

Ideal as buy to let or first time purchase, one double bedroom first floor flat which will benefit from new 99 year lease, own front door, spacious lounge, modern bathroom, gas central heating, uPVC double glazing. Convenient for seafront, town centre and stations. No onward chain. Ref: ETS4933



New price



Southend-on-Sea OIEO £100,000

Offered with a new 99 year lease is this one bedroom ground floor flat which benefits from modern kitchen, uPVC double glazed windows, communal garden and parking. Convenient for Prittlewell station and town center. Currently let producing £5,700 p.a. Ref: ETS4920

ISSUE 25
19th OCT 2014

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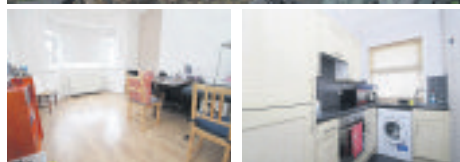
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ISSUE



New instruction



Westcliff-on-Sea £125,000

Currently let producing £6,420 p.a., is this delightful one double bedroom first floor flat which benefits from modern kitchen with integrated appliances, modern white bathroom, good sized lounge, uPVC double glazed windows, electric storage heaters and own section of rear garden.



New homes



Benfleet £365,000

We have been favoured with the instruction to offer for sale two brand new four bedroom family link detached houses, which are currently in the course of construction in a popular residential location. No onward chain. Ref: ETS4910 & ETS4911

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Westcliff on Sea £219,000

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Leigh on Sea £235,000

SOUTH OF LEIGH BROADWAY - A STROLL TO LEIGH STATION - VIEWS OVER ESTUARY - Large TWO DOUBLE BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT is a MUST SEE! - Large Fitted Kitchen, Re-Fitted Bathroom/WC, Large Lounge, Lovely Gardens Front & Rear - DON NOT MISS OUT ON THIS ONE!



Hockley £475,000

FANTASTIC LOCATION in a cul-de-sac of only three properties - Lovely FOUR BEDROOM GEORGIAN STYLE DETACHED FAMILY HOME is a MUST SEE! - approx 100' Wide Rear Garden, Two Reception Rooms, Large Fitted Kitchen, En-Suite, Dressing Room, Ground Floor wc, Garage - ABSOLUTELY LOVELY HOME THAT MUST BE VIEWED

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Choice of two freshly developed/ refurbished bungalows, Leigh £275,000 each

An excellent opportunity to purchase one of these this freshly developed / refurbished semi detached bungalows situated on the Marine Estate in Leigh close to local shops and amenities. Leigh Station is within walking distance too. Both bungalows have two bedrooms, off street parking, luxury kitchens and bathrooms, double glazing and gas c/h. Plans available for inspection at this office.



Marine Estate, Leigh £210,000

REQUIRING SOME UPDATING HENCE PRICE - Purpose built second floor flat with South facing distant views across the Thames Estuary situated in this sought after location close to Leigh mainline station and Leigh Broadway. The property benefits from spacious accommodation and GARAGE and is offered for sale with No Onward Chain. Two double bedrooms, large lounge, Kitchen, bathroom/w.c. Ref ett5269



2 Bedroom flat, Southend £145,000

A large two bedroom first floor flat situated in this popular and convenient location within easy walking distance of Southend Town Centre, Beach, High Street and Stations for Fenchurch Street and Liverpool Street (London). No Onward Chain. Excellent size 18' x 15' lounge, 12' x 11' kitchen, small overgrown rear garden. Ref ett5259



Prittlewell £249,995

We are very pleased to offer for sale this beautifully presented detached bungalow situated in a popular location within walking distance of local shops, bus routes and station. Early viewing is strongly advised to avoid disappointment. Two bedrooms, spacious luxury fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, luxury bathroom, lovely south facing garden, small garage and extensive parking area. Ref ett5258



1 year old house, Westcliff £285,000

Superb 1 year old semi detached house in small, select development close to shops schools and David Lloyd sports centre. This house was originally the show house and remains beautifully presented by the current owners. Three good size bedrooms, En suite shower room to master bedroom, large lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, garage, luxury bathroom, d/glazing, gas c/h.



Probate sale- Westcliff £410,000

PROBATE SALE - KEYS AVAILABLE TO VIEW this impressive four bedroom detached family house, occupying a South backing plot with a wonderful 40' x 90' secluded rear garden. The property is situated in an eagerly sought after location, close to the high schools and Southend hospital. Large accommodation includes two lounges, cloaks/w.c. 28' x 20'4 open plan lounge and dining room, 14' x 11'6 kitchen. 20' garage plus parking Ref ett5257



Town & Country

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Immaculate 3 bed semi detached house, Leigh £239,995

KEYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING FROM 4TH OCTOBER - this very presented three bedroom family house with Off street parking, 75' approx rear garden, superb 24'8 x 12'8 Lounge / Diner, 11'4 x 9'8 luxury fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, three good size bedrooms, luxury bathroom, double glazing, gas c/h Ref ett5268



Leigh £399,500

A charming detached character house with a wonderful 100' established rear garden situated in this sought after location close to Bonchurch park, local shops and schools. Keys are available for viewing. Three bedrooms, double size car port, spacious lounge, large open plan dining room & rear lounge, cloaks/w.c., luxury fitted kitchen and bathroom. Ref ett5272

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Hockley £675,000

RURAL LOCATION

- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Receptions
- Rural Setting
- Two and half Acres
- Numerous Outbuildings
- Brick Built Annexe
- Solar Heating System
- Ideal Business Opportunity
- Ref: ESH1696

Hockley £354,995

CLOSE TO STATION

- Detached House
- Four Bedrooms
- Corner Plot
- Three Receptions
- Extended Accom.
- Detached Garage
- In/Out Driveway
- Close Station
- Secluded Garden
- Ref: ESH1699

Rochford £249,950

SEMI RURAL LOCATION

- Chalet Style
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Corner Plot
- Village Location
- Lounge/Diner
- Two Bathrooms
- Wide Secluded Garden
- Ample Parking
- No Onward Chain
- Ref: ESH1701

Hockley £239,950

NEW INSTRUCTION

- Popular Location
- Gas Heating
- Double Glazing
- 2 Bedrooms
- White Bathroom Suite
- Detached Garage
- Off Street Parking
- Established Secluded Garden
- No Onward Chain
- ESH1702

Hawkwell £455,000

NEW PRICE

- Detached 4 Bed Chalet Bungalow
- Very Spacious
- Self-contained Annexe
- Large Kitchen/Diner
- Close to Schools
- Walk to Station
- In/Out Driveway
- No Onward Chain
- ESH1695

South Fambridge £795,000

VILLAGE LOCATION

- Idyllic Location
- Detached Chalet Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Two En-suites
- Stunning Views
- Open Plan Lounge
- Grounds approx. 1 acre
- Potential to Extend
- Sun Terrace
- Ref: ESH1684

Hawkwell £250,000

VIEWING ESSENTIAL

- Bungalow
- Semi Detached
- Excellent Condition
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- Modern Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Sun Lounge
- Close to Shops
- ESH1697

Hockley £327,500

EXTENDED ACCOMMODATION

- Semi Detached House
- Character Style
- Three Bedrooms
- Close to Station
- Excellent Condition
- Lounge/Diner
- Ample Parking
- Landscaped Garden
- Viewing Essential
- Ref: ESH1700

Hawkwell £328,000

NO ONWARD CHAIN

- Detached House
- 4 Large Bedrooms
- Two Receptions
- New Fitted Kitchen
- En-suite Shower
- South West Garden
- Close Shops
- Attached Garage
- Highly Recommended
- Ref: ESH1660

Hawkwell £299,995

NO ONWARD CHAIN

- Detached Chalet
- Three Bedrooms
- Wide Frontage
- Ample Parking
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- 85' Garden
- Popular Location
- No Onward Chain
- Ref: ESH1688

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Think Property Answer

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1. the original age, quality and condition of any item at commencement of the tenancy
2. the average useful lifespan to value ratio (depreciation) of the item
3. the reasonable expected usage of such an item
4. the number and type of occupants in the property
5. the length of the tenant's occupancy

We'd say that there several points to make in addition to this very helpful guidance. Generally, you're not going to be able to claim for the full cost of replacing an item but merely a contribution towards its repair or replacement. Secondly, the type of tenant you have taken on makes a difference. So, if you've let the property to parents with kids or students, people with pets or smokers and that was recognized in the agreement, then you can't penalize tenants for behaving as anyone would reasonably expect them to.

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Motoring News

Pull plug on black boxes says survey

By Ian Johnson

THE day of the automotive black box is looming large but a section of British motorists has already given it the thumbs down.

The EU plans to introduce so-called 'spy boxes' in cars which can monitor how a vehicle has been driven have been known for some time and the technology is ready for the idea's adoption.

But a web-based survey by the leading car super-market Motorpoint found 71.5 per cent of drivers opposed regulations that will see 'black boxes' built into all new cars from October 2015.

Although just under 2,000 people participated in the poll on the company's website, it gives an idea of just how unpopular this move is.

The telematics technology would keep track Big Brother-style of how fast their customers drive, how hard they brake and how many journeys a year they take.

It is based on the eCall system that is used by a number of car manufacturers to make it easier for the emergency services to track



crashed vehicles.

Anyone who refuses to have a 'black box' fitted retrospectively to an existing vehicle could see a spike in their insurance premiums as a result.

Furthermore, motorists won't be able to switch off the device and testing is expected to form part of the MoT.

Mark Carpenter, managing director of Motorpoint, said: "You can't argue with the benefits of a device being used to make it easier for the emergency services to track a vehicle but the

results of our poll are definitive – UK drivers don't want costly Big Brother style devices attached to their cars which have the potential to track their movements 24/7."

You have to admit that the idea does not have its merits, especially as proof of safe driving.

But there is that underlying factor that that old established right of privacy in motoring is being eroded and the result of the Motorpoint survey underlines the concern over that fact without question.

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175	65	R15	£38.00
185	55	R15	£39.00
185	60	R15	£41.00
185	65	R15	£41.00
195	50	R15	£38.00
205	55	R16	£42.00
225	45	R17	£47.00

MID RANGE 1

165	60	R14	£40.00
175	65	R14	£38.00
175	65	R15	£50.00
185	55	R15	£48.00
185	60	R15	£51.00
185	65	R15	£51.00
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In Memoriam

WENDY HEPPELL

1st January 1977
to
9th October 2010
We love and miss you so much
XXX XXX XXX

Public Notices

Notice of application to vary a Premises Licence under Section 24 of the Licensing Act 2003

Notice is hereby given that Interguide Southend Ltd in respect of Premises known as East Coast Social, 9-11 The Broadway, London Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1TJ applied to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council for a Variation of a Premises Licence. The proposed variation is: 1. Vary the layout of the premises in accordance with the plans supplied by the applicant; 2. To extend the terminal hours for sale of alcohol, recorded music and provision of late night refreshment to 02:30 on Friday and Saturday; and opening hours 03:00 on Friday and Saturday; 3. To extend the opening hours from 7.00 Monday to Sunday to allow for breakfast serving; 4. To remove certain conditions attached to the premises licence, as stated in the application; and 5. To add the conditions to be attached to the premises licence, as stated in the application. Any representations regarding the above-mentioned application must be received in writing by Licensing Authority, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Civic Centre (Floor 13), Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 6ZG no later than 24 October 2014 stating the grounds for representation. The register of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and the record of the application may be inspected at the address of the council, given above, during normal business hours or on the council's website - www.southend.gov.uk It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

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SHREWS SUNK BY RESOLUTE BLUES

Southend United

**Southend United 1
Shrewsbury Town 0**
Brian Jeeves reporting from
Roots Hall Stadium

SOUTHEND United made it four Sky Bet League Two victories in a row after Shaquille Coulthirst's brilliant early header and a resolute defensive display earned three price-less points against fellow promotion hopefuls Shrewsbury Town.

The Blues went into this encounter off the back of notable triumphs over Portsmouth, Cheltenham Town and York City in the space of eight days, and sitting healthily in fourth place. Meanwhile, mid-week Carling Cup giant killers Shrewsbury, were just two points, and indeed places, behind their hosts. However, suitably buoyed by that fantastic success over Championship highfliers Norwich City, this appeared to be anything but an easy ride for Phil Brown's men, and so it proved.

Perhaps with continuity in mind, Brown stuck with the same eleven that had won narrowly at Bootham Crescent a week previous, with you ng starlet Jack Payne once again retaining his place following a series of eye-catching displays.

And within two minutes Blues were ahead. Skipper John White picked out Coulthirst with a delicious centre, and the Tottenham Hotspur loanee headed beyond Shrews keeper Jason Leutwiler to send the home support into raptures.

Shocked Shrewsbury looked for an immediate response, but James Collins effort was just off target, while Ryan Woods teasing cross was dealt with by Blues keeper Daniel Bentley.

Soon after, Coulthirst came close to a second, this time Leutwiler produced a brilliant save after Kevan Hurst had picked him out with a quite exquisite pass. Meanwhile at the other end, Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro struck the woodwork as the end to end nature of the game continued. Then Bentley did well to grasp Li am Lawrence' shot from distance as the visitors continued to probe.

Ryan Woods was denied by a fantastic last ditch tackle from Luke Prosser as Shrewsbury started to turn the screw, while Bentley was forced to scramble low to his left to keep out another effort from Lawrence.

Blues looked to rally. Hurst pulled a shot wide after good approach work from Payne and White, but it was the Shrews who continued to dictate, Connor Goldson was next to try his luck for the Shropshire outfit, this time just off target after Woods had found him in an acre of space.

Southend started to regain their



SAVED: Daniel Bentley comes under pressure

Photo by Dave Montier

rhythm. Jerome Binnom-Williams was wayward after a flowing move involving the industrious Payne, while Connor Clifford fired into the Shrews wall after Hurst had teed him up from a dead ball situation. Then Northern Ireland under 21 international defender Adam Thompson warmed Leutwiler's palms with a thumping header.

As the half drew to its conclusion, Shrewsbury's frustrations surfaced as Lawrence was cautioned by referee Kevin Johnson for what appeared to be a high boot on Bentley. The Blues keeper was clearly incensed by the incident, but the period concluded with no further activity.

The second half began at an altogether more subdued tempo. Prosser was stunned, and needed treatment, after Woods rasping effort hit him full in the face, while Leutwiler made an unorthodox stop to thwart Myles Weston.

Lawrence' frustrating afternoon continued, and indeed concluded, when the Shrewsbury man tempestuously kicked out at the dugout after being replaced by Andy Mangan. While the other side of the white line, both Mickey Demetriou and Jordan Clark fired over from outside the box, and Apra Akpo headed on to the roof of the net from close range. Nevertheless the game had lost its way, with a general untidiness now seemingly having taken hold of proceedings and slightly pacifying the crowd of 6,951.

Substitute Barr Corr should have doubled Blues advantage, heading

directly into Leutwiler's midriff after Weston's run and cross, then Weston himself could have done better, only finding the side netting after Coulthirst had played him in.

Bentley had been a spectator for much of the second half, but the Blues keeper had to react quickly after Ashley Vincent found room to send an effort towards the target, while Corr was wayward with an angled drive after Coulthirst had done the donkey work.

Then came a flashpoint. Substitute Mangan was high and late on Bentley, giving ref Johnson little option other than to brandish a second yellow card for the Shrewsbury man.

James Wesolowski headed over as the Shrews threw the proverbial kitchen sink in the final stages, but Blues held firm for what could prove to be a massive three points against one of the division's better teams.

Afterwards, a delighted Phil Brown said: "The sign of a good side is one that doesn't play well but gets a result and that was us today. We didn't play well.

"The team deserve credit, they worked very hard. We scored so early and it put their team on the back foot. Micky Mellon's a tactician and he had to do it early on.

Brown added: "With Micky changing his tactics, I had to do the same. We could have got a second goal to make it comfortable but we didn't. However, I'm delighted for them because a 1-0 win means the mentality is very good in there.

"It was a real tough struggle today against a team that have a lot of quality."

Brown was quick to praise match winner Shaquille Coulthirst, saying: "I'm delighted for Shaq to score. I think he deserved it today and would have had a couple more if it wasn't for their goalkeeper. He looked across around the hour mark wondering if he'd be coming off but he deserved to stay on and he had a great 90 minutes.

"The confidence that will give him will be a big positive heading into another tough game against Morecambe next week."

Blues defender Adam Thompson said: "It was a great time to score and showed again - like we did at York - we start bright. It was a long old time to hold onto it and defend it against a side that is a very good team.

Blues will look to make it five wins on the spin when bogey team Morecambe visit Roots Hall next Saturday, October 4, kick-off 3pm.

Southend United: Daniel Bentley, John White, Adam Thompson, Luke Prosser, Myles Weston (Cian Bolger), Kevan Hurst (Will Atkinson), Connor Clifford, Shaq Coulthirst, Jack Payne Barry Corr, Gary Deegan, Jerome Binnom-Williams. Subs not used: Paul Smith, Mads Ibenfeldt, Lee Barnard, Jack Bridge.

Shrewsbury Town: Jason Leutwiler, Jermaine Grandison, Mickey Demetriou, Ryan Woods, Connor Goldson, James Collins Ashley Vincent, Liam Lawrence (Andy Mangan), Cameron Gayle (Jordan Clark), James Wesolowski, Nathan Knight-Percival, Jean-Louis Akpa Akpro. Subs not used: Mark Halstead, Mark Ellis, Scott Vernon, Anthony Griffith.

Referee: Kevin Johnson
Assistants: Craig Hicks and Mark Mellor.

Fourth Official: Robert Hyde
Attendance: 6,951

Non-league round-up

City storm to success

by Brian Jeeves

THE FA Cup second qualifying round took centre stage and it proved to be a good weekend's toil for the regions non-league football clubs with six-shooters Chelmsford City leading the way.

The Clarets put their recent Vamarama Conference South problems behind them to record a resounding 6-0 rout of Ryman League One South outfit Worthing at Melbourne Stadium. Michael Cheek grabbed a hat trick for rampant City, with Evana Kouassi, Mark Hughes and Sam Gregory also hitting the target.

Canvey Island have a fair bit of recent cup history. The Gulls were at it again, snatching a 1-0 win at Burnham, Ishmail Kamara scoring the decisive goal early in the first half.

Billericay Town also enjoyed FA Cup success. Goals from Richard Halle (penalty) and Ricky Sappleton earned the New Lodge side a 2-1 triumph over Raynes Park Vale. Simon Moore with the visitor's consolation. And Aveley took the honours in the all-Essex tie. Danny Francis and a late Theo Ola goal sinking Thurrock at Ship Lane.

East Thurrock United won a thrilling tie at Metropolitan Police by the odd goal in seven. Lewis Smith (2), Sam Higgins and Connor Witherspoon finding the net for the Rocks, and Witham Town also hit four, seeing off Lewes 4-2, a brace from Tom Wraight along with goals from Danny Emmanuel and Jamie Stevens enough to see Town home.

Concord Rangers will have to do it all again after a goal five minutes into injury time from Joe Gardner cancelled out a first half strike from Wealdstone's Joe Turner.

Vanarama Conference Premier side Braintree Town enter the FA Cup at the next stage, therefore it was league business for the Iron for now. And Alan Devonshire's men picked up a useful point from a hard-fought goalless draw with FC Halifax Town.

In the Ryman Premier Division, AFC Hornchurch continued to frustrate their faithful fans. A single goal from Luke Wanadio was enough to see Hampton & Richmond Borough leave Bridge Avenue with maximum points.

Meanwhile in the Ryman North, Tilbury went down 4-2 at Soham Town Rangers, Luke Stanley grabbing a hat trick for the hosts. Francis Babalola and Ruben Duarte replied for the Dockers.

Elsewhere Redbridge went down 2-0 at home to Thamesmead Town while Brightlingsea Regent were held 1-1 by Harlow Town.

The pick of the Essex Senior League action saw Barking thrash Eton Manor by four goals to nil, while Clapton grabbed a late winner to see off Bowers & Pitsea at the Old Spotted Dog. Hullbridge Sports edged out Takeley 2-1 and it was the same outcome at the Cricklefield Stadium where Ilford beat Southend Manor. Basildon United and Enfield 1893 shared the spoils after a goalless draw.

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The Electoral Office, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

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It also means that each individual living in a property is responsible for registering to vote, not the 'head of household' as has been the case previously.



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You can do this online at **www.gov.uk/register-to-vote** or by calling **01702 215010**.



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